

What is Home Rule?

Some questions and answers

Q. Will Home Rule increase or decrease my taxes?

A. No.

Home Rule has no impact on taxes or tax rates.

Q. What would happen if Home Rule is not approved by the voters?

A. If Home Rule is not approved, the Town of Buckeye Council would lose the ability to set the city's budget based on current needs and revenues and would be required to operate under the state expenditure limitation that is based upon revenue figures from 1980.

Projections indicate the Town would then be forced to cut millions of dollars in services and programs from its 2011-2012 budget under the state-imposed spending limit. Despite having the funds available for municipal services, state law would prevent the Town of Buckeye from expending these funds.

Q. What is "Home Rule" or the Alternative Expenditure?

A. Under State law, Home Rule requires that each city in Arizona cap their annual expenditures either by adhering to a limit (based on expenditure figures from 1980) or by obtaining voter approval on an alternative expenditure limitation.

Home Rule is the alternative expenditure limitation option that has been approved by Town of Buckeye voters seven times since 1982. The Home Rule option allows Buckeye residents to determine an appropriate expenditure limitation and allows voters to approve these expenditure limitations every four years.

Q. What's the difference between Home Rule and the state-imposed spending limitation?

A. Home Rule offers communities more flexibility in budgeting. When the state imposed formula was originally developed in 1980, the Town of Buckeye had a population under 5,000 residents. Today, Buckeye has some 52,000 residents.

This results in increased demand for police, fire, parks, streets, water and other essential services. Home Rule recognizes these changing needs and authorizes the expenditure of funds as determined by the community and within the bounds of the law.